



SINCE

1841

# WOODLAND

HISTORIC CEMETERY & ARBORETUM



**Decorating for the Holidays at Woodland:**



Last week, we learned about the symbolism of evergreen wreaths in the context of funerary art. The act or ceremony of laying a wreath at a grave is imbued with a lot of symbolism and meaning—but most often serves as a way of remembering a specific person.

Woodland does permit evergreen wreaths and ‘grave blankets’, so long as they are made of natural plant materials. Permitted winter decorations will remain in place throughout the holiday season\*\*.

**Prohibited decorations include** such items as candles, ceramic/plaster/plastic statues, decorative rocks, fences, shepherd’s hooks, hanging baskets, flags, and stuffed animals. Regular grounds maintenance can turn these items into missiles that can cause injury to anybody nearby. Not long ago, a mower threw part of a decorative statue straight through the window in our employee kitchen—nearly 50 yards away. While these items may be symbolic or meaningful, they do pose a constant and significant hazard to anybody visiting the cemetery.

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**Above:** grave blankets made of evergreen boughs and other natural plant materials are regularly available at your favorite florist's.

**Right:** this type of wreath is a good choice for decorating a grave marker in winter.



\*\*Woodland does reserve the right to remove prohibited, dangerous and/or unsightly adornments at any time. For more information, including the Adornment Removal Calendar, visit our website [here](#).

## Symbols of the Season:



Candles are a familiar sight in gravestone art. Carved into stone, a lit candle symbolizes life. The opposite is also true; a burned-out candle represents life that has ended. Sometimes these little lights are depicted as a traditional candlestick, but artists also love to use images of torches or oil lamps in this way.

When the viewer is feeling a bit less literal, candles may symbolize more optimistic ideas. Depicted with a flame still burning, candles may be used to represent a commitment to one’s faith or a belief in eternal life. A lit torch or candle are also used as a metaphor for hope.



## December 10th is Dewey Decimal Day!

### Electra Collins Doren

12/4/1861 - 3/4/1927



Photos courtesy Dayton Metro Library:  
(Above) Electra Collins Doren, undated.  
(Below) Electra C. Doren Library Branch.

Electra Collins Doren served as Chief Librarian for Dayton's Public Library from 1896 until 1905. She oversaw the library's implementation of the Dewey Decimal System—a major reorganization that took three years to complete. In 1899, once all the books had been reclassified, the library's shelves were opened to the public for the first time.

One of the founders of the Ohio Library Association (now the Ohio Library Council), Electra Doren was a true pioneer in the field of Library Science. She is credited with the establishment of Dayton's first library training school, implementing library book catalogs, and creating one of the first bookmobiles in the United States.

A branch library was named in honor of Electra Doren in 1928; it still stands at 701 Troy Street. Electra Doren and her family rest in section 101, lot 1724 at Woodland Cemetery.

Honor the importance of libraries in our community by taking a moment to peruse the many resources available at your local public library!



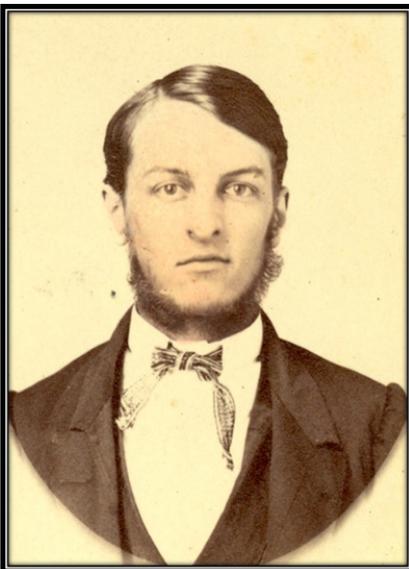


## Civil War: 1861-1865

Lieut. Howard Forrer  
(11/11/1841 - 7/22/1864)

### **“For the Empire; The Death of Howard Forrer. –**

the Journal this morning contains the sad intelligence of the death of this brave and distinguished youth. He was killed at Atlanta in the action of July 22d. He was Adjutant of the 63d Ohio Regiment and fell in the brave and fearless discharge of his duty as a soldier.



The comely appearance and estimable qualities of this noble young man will long remain vivid in the recollection of those who knew him. The loss of such a son to parents, who looked with the fondest hope to a future career of prosperity and usefulness that should be the solace and the pride of their own declining years, is indeed irreparable. There can be no earthly compensation to them for a calamity so distressing. So pure, so amiable, so good, and withal so spirited, intelligent and noble hearted, even the language of eulogy is vainly employed to depict a character that gave so much ground of future excellence."

-Published by The Daily Empire, 8/2/1864, pg. 2

Howard Forrer and his family rest in section 102, lot 1348 at Woodland Cemetery.



# Upcoming Events!

## Annual Holiday Remembrance Event:



Woodland Cemetery will be hosting our annual Holiday Remembrance Service in our Tiffany Chapel.

Please join us to remember and celebrate those who have gone before us.

We welcome all family and friends to share in music, words of comfort and a candlelight service.

December 13th at 6:30 pm

Click [here](#) or call our office:

(937) 228-3221 to RSVP!

## Support Woodland:

Woodland is proud to remain an active part of the Dayton community as a popular place to walk, relax and enjoy.

We invite you to contribute to the Woodland Arboretum Foundation to ensure that what's meaningful to you today, continues tomorrow! Your gift makes an immediate impact on the horticulture, arboriculture, and restoration efforts needed to maintain one of Dayton's most historic and beautiful outdoor museums.

Thank you for your generous support of Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum.

**DONATE ONLINE!**

# Come Visit Us!



## Office Hours:

Monday-Friday  
8am-5pm

If you need help finding where someone is buried, need directions to a particular area, or have questions about pre-planning or funeral services, Woodland's Staff is here to assist you!

## Volunteer opportunities

Woodland is seeking volunteers to give presentations to community groups on subjects such as local history, notable biographies, and trees.

Not into public speaking? Consider getting involved with our horticulture team, or assisting with special events & research projects.

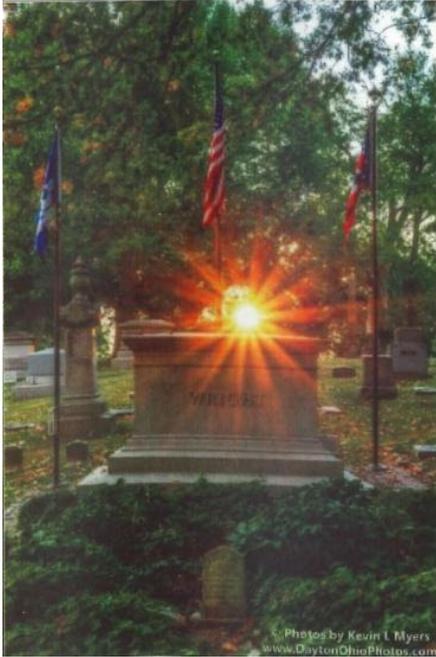
\*If there is something you'd like to see here at Woodland please reach out to us & suggest it!

## Tours & More:

We welcome walkers, runners, and wanderers -- leashed dogs & school groups.

Register for a guided tour: visit the Woodland Cemetery website! Learn about fascinating Daytonians resting peacefully in one of America's oldest rural garden cemeteries! Or check out our [virtual tours](#)! (if you really don't want to go outside)





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# WOODLAND

HISTORIC CEMETERY & ARBORETUM

Committed to providing dignified and caring funeral services and burial options to families of all faiths since 1841.

## Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum

118 Woodland Ave.  
Dayton, OH 45409  
woodlandcemetery.org

***Beautiful. Timeless. Still Available...***



Discover the men and women who made it great in Dayton on a guided walking or bus tour. Self-guided tours are available on our mobile app.

For information call 937-228-3221 or e-mail [info@woodlandcemetery.org](mailto:info@woodlandcemetery.org)

Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum | [Visit our website!](http://www.woodlandcemetery.org)

Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum | 118 Woodland Ave., Dayton, OH 45409